





Waiting for trial...

Doing your own trial...

SABOTAGE THE LEGAL MACHINE

"I see," said K., nodding, "these books are probably law books, and it is an essential part of the justice dispensed here that you should be condemned not only in innocence but also in ignorance."

—The Trial by F. Kafka

IN THE BOOK, K. MUST eventually dismiss his lawyer in order to gain control over the conduct of at least part of the strange proceedings against him. K. realized that the lawyer was just another buffer in the total system that entangled him. The only way to inject reality into the situation was to break the rules and speak out in his own defense.

Recent times, especially since the star-chamber proceedings of the Nixon years in the U.S. and the War Measures Act in Canada, have seen an increasing number of non-legal people, radicals and activists take the same course as K., effectively throwing a psychological grenade into the smooth running of business-as-usual.

The sector of the population which has the most bitter legal experiences prisoners—have been at the forefront in the area of legal self-defense, whether it is in the actual conduct of their own trials or as jail-house lawyers helping each other through the snakes and ladders of the law.

Prisoners and prisoner rights activists realize that to be "on trial" is to be subjected to the excruciatingly reasonable insanity of the Court, an arbitrary artificial world, where judges, prosecutors and lawyers barter away over your freedom in an alien language and ritual which, for many hundreds of years, has been strictly guarded as the private domain of the rich.

The defense counsel is put forward as the protector of the accused's rights, —another person who you don't even really know takes on your voice and speaks while you remain dumb. A defense lawyer talks about years of your life, your motivations, your alibis, your desperation and then goes home to dinner each evening. Even those lawyers who have devoted their lives to changing a system they themselves despise are swamped by the impossible restrictions their professional status places on them. They simply cannot say what has to be said and still go on being lawyers. In an unreal system it is treasonable to speak the truth and expose the real sources of crime, violence and rebellion.

The legal establishment, — judges, prosecutors and lawyers, is generally horrified by accused persons who attempt to exercise their right to defend themselves. It is terribly messy, it requires real work for them and inevitably cuts into the facade of status quo justice which goes so often unchallenged.

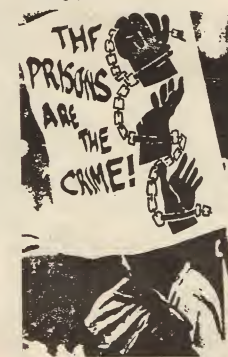
JUDGES AFFRONTED

People untutored in the arcane mumbo-jumbo of the law almost always make uncomfortable arguments of common sense or appeal to such basic concepts as defense of necessity, equality before the law, Human Rights, and most troublesome of all the popular notion of justice — that it is just not right that the few should have control and power over the many. Such approaches are guaranteed to expose the raw nerves of the Court forcing it to resort to the brute force which stands behind its facade of reason. Contempt charges and eventually removal from the courtroom await those accused that

attempt to press their case vigorously.

On a practical level, self-defense — the conduct of your own trial — takes on a number of different dimensions depending on the type of charges, the issues involved and the support available. The most visible cases involve substantial defense committees and well-known causes or high-profile individuals that media attention will focus on naturally. The people on trial defend themselves not because they can't afford good lawyers but because they want to speak in their own voices, present their arguments to the more important court of public opinion, and because they want to show others that the courts are not inviolable, that they are part of the system and can be opposed.

Generally, the larger and more well-organized the defense committee the more viable a strategy of self-defense becomes. It becomes a shared experience with a network of emotional support and technical feedback that is necessary when fighting an overwhelming system.



Prisoner support on the street...

Although the track record for individuals, specifically those in custody, defending themselves without an outside support committee is not encouraging, more and more prisoners seem motivated to take that course.

Self-defense can be a first step in drawing attention to a case, a means of raising the issues of inadequate prison conditions, airing personal grievances or other wider concerns.

An interesting case of this type is that developing in Vancouver around Ken Deyarmond, a former prisoner who had served 4½ years previously, and is now in custody charged with bank robbery. He has chosen to defend himself in an effort to expose inadequate legal facilities available to prisoners on remand. He maintains that the right to defend yourself is a sham if the proper and adequate legal facilities available to lawyers are not provided to those in custody. After all, he argues, you are still supposed to be innocent until proven guilty.

In his defense of the robbery charge Deyarmond intends to explain to the jury that the entire prison system rehabilitation program is a lie which places released prisoners into an economic system with no options but to resume robbing banks to survive.

So far, Deyarmond's approach has attracted some media attention and a small support committee has begun to get into action. However, he is fully aware that by defending himself he is risking a ten-year sentence, but intends to continue fighting undeterred: "Otherwise," he says, "if prisoners can't speak for ourselves then nobody is gonna know what it's like for us and that seems to be exactly what the justice system wants."

ACTIVISTS' VICTORY

In another Vancouver case, this time involving a defense committee and media attention from the outset, prisoner rights activists Gay Hoon and Betsy Wood successfully fought charges of attempted murder, aiding a prison break and public mischief for over a year following an escape attempt at the maximum security B.C. Penitentiary by five prisoners.

Hoon and Wood were among thirteen visitors and non-participating inmates abandoned by fleeing guards when the five escapees smashed through the visiting room glass, only to be thwarted by a locked door that turned the escape into a police siege. When the siege was lifted a week later, instead of being reunited with friends and family Hoon and Wood, the only activists visiting that day, were taken into custody and charged along with the five prisoners.

An early member of the Hoon-Wood support committee explains what happened then:

"The first thing we had to do was gather letters of support, to present at the bail hearings where the prosecution was making Gay and Betsy out to be blood-thirsty gun molls. We gathered over 75 letters from a broad range of people, daycare workers, trade unionists, liberal and social democratic activists, business people, even lawyers who knew the two.

"Next we had to provide profiles of Gay and Betsy's lives to the media in an effort to counteract all the one-dimensional hard-bitten desperate radical propaganda being pumped out by the prosecution. It was amazing how many people, including activists and erstwhile friends, immediately accepted the prosecution's declaration that Gay and Betsy were guilty."

By the time bail was finally granted two weeks later Hoon and Wood had earned themselves a stint in solitary confinement for "disrupting the good order of the institution." Once on the street the two used their new found media attention to launch attacks against the prison system and expose the conditions inside. Working in conjunction with a support committee they mapped out a basic campaign, not to defend themselves against the charges pending, but, to put the "B.C. Pen on Trial." Instead of playing the role of victims the

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SABOTAGE

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Hoon-Wood support committee hoped to refocus the issues before the Court by demanding that the prison account for its continued operation of solitary confinement cells which had been declared "cruel and unusual" by the Supreme Court of Canada.

At a preliminary hearing into the charges Hoon and Wood retained lawyers at a cost of \$15,000 but it quickly became clear that the lawyers were refusing to carry out their client's instructions that they pursue lines of questioning aimed at exposing the corruption of the prison system and the various guards and officials who were appearing as prosecution witnesses. The patience of all concerned was stretched to the breaking point.

It was then that Betsy Wood decided that should the case ever come to a real trial that she would make the attempt to defend herself in order to make the points she felt were necessary under the circumstances. Instead of hiring an expensive lawyer as in the preliminary hearing, Gay Hoon retained a legal aid lawyer to represent her when the case came to trial in January 1979.

Even with a relatively coherent defense committee Wood and those working on the day-to-day courtroom strategy found themselves putting in 18 hour days for the duration of the six week trial.

DETERMINE OBJECTIVES

"Betsy had to weigh the consequences of doing her own case versus the possible gains for the prisoner rights movement. It was necessary to spend a great deal of time analyzing the contradictions of the prosecution's case and determining their strategy before we could make an adequate start at a defense. On top of that different people, most of whom had never looked at a criminal code, or any legal documents for that matter, had to familiarize themselves with the law relating to different aspects of the case. That way we expanded the options open to us during the actual court

proceedings."

The primary problem confronting the support committee was the organization of tremendous amounts of information relating to the trial. There were hundreds of pages of transcripts, legal documents, briefs and arguments. Every witness had to be evaluated separately; their possible testimony divided into what could help the defense and what could hurt it.

"Over-preparation is absolutely necessary because not knowing the law or courtroom procedure made effective improvisation quite difficult. It was necessary to write most speeches down so as to make sure all the important points were covered. Most people know what they want to talk about but under the pressure of court and jury it's easy to be intimidated or forget even the best intended and genuine speech if they're left to spontaneity," said a committee member.

STRATEGIC APPROACHES

As part of our pre-trial motions we attempted to put the prosecutor and the role of the prosecution in the justice system on the spot," explains a Hoon-Wood Committee member. "We prepared a substantial abuse of process argument citing the prosecutor's prejudicial statements, lack of legally required cooperation and attempts to sabotage the defense."

The Wood-Hoon group also prepared a pre-trial motion based on the Canadian Bill of Rights and other motions arguing that the prosecution had no evidence. The purpose of all these arguments was not so much that they might be successful but that they expanded the scope of the trial and set the stage for the issues involved.

The abuse of process motion, which the prosecutor vehemently opposed, had the added effect of making him pull in his horns and restrict his behaviour during the rest of the trial so as to appear fair.

Other pre-trial work which can have good results is an investigation of the jury panel from which the jury in the case is to be drawn. In Canada, unlike the U.S., the defense has no right to question prospective jurors regarding

their general prejudices or foreknowledge and opinions on the case they will hear. Such information can only be inferred by looking up jurors in the City Directory, which lists occupations, length of residence, etc.; correlating juror's addresses with the poll records of recent elections to determine the political character of their neighborhood; or, checking out union or service group affiliations can also help.

COURTROOM THEATRE

Once the trial is before the jury the courtroom is transformed into a theatre. It is important to remember that the law has virtually nothing to do with what goes on in a courtroom. Everyone is playing to win the hearts and minds of twelve men and women in the jury box and they use all the methods of persuasion available to them. While it is true that jurors are influenced by the judge's instructions they are guided much more by their own common sense and prejudices. The role of the defense is to invite the juror into their world, to get the jurors to see the important issues involved from the accused's point of view. A juror who identifies with the person on trial or is convinced of the essential justice of the cause they are fighting for will be less likely to convict. This has been proven in almost all the successful political trials of the last decade.

People defending themselves, like performers, must create moods and images for the jury which they can't help but be affected by. The defense should encourage a supportive ambience throughout the proceedings, both within and outside the courtroom, which demoralizes the prosecution at every turn and cements the identity of the jurors and defense as innocent pawns in a conflict with the confusing formalities of the professionals.

"The best way to do this is by being genuine and straight-forward even if it means breaking the rules and confronting the judge repeatedly," maintains a Hoon-Wood committee member. "Don't be afraid to show your emotions but always remember that it's theatre and you should be in control of the reactions you want the jury to

absorb.

"This is real important when you realize that initially juries have by-and-large negative opinions of radicals as strident, one-dimensional, authoritarian characters. They expect you to rave. The same goes for prisoners—even more so. To overcome these major handicaps it's necessary to convince the jury of your humanity, show that you are not an animal, and, in fact, have reactions and feelings similar to what theirs would be in similar circumstances."

Every piece of evidence and bit of testimony during the trial, particularly since most cases are circumstantial, can be interpreted in a number of different ways. The prosecution and police have a theory which they attempt to present to the jury as the only reasonable explanation of a set of facts and circumstance. The defense must also have a theory which effectively invalidates the prosecution theory. Each witness must be examined in the light of supporting the defense theory or conversely demolishing their part in the prosecution theory. Even a juror sympathetic to the defense must have alternative explanations and reasonable defence arguments to put forward in the jury room in order to win over more skeptical jurors.

It is particularly important that the persons defending themselves have a well thought out closing statement because that is the last thing the jury will be left with before retiring to their deliberations. It should be prepared well in advance so that it doesn't have to be thrown together at the last minute and it should fully anticipate and answer the prosecution's basic case (their submission comes after the defence) as well as present the issues important to the defense in a way that is easily understandable by the jury.

USE THE MEDIA

Finally, what goes on in the courtroom, even a guilty or not guilty verdict, is not always the only consideration that should concern people defending themselves. The media and drawing the attention of the wider public to the issues involved is often equally important. Therefore courtroom testimony, theatrics and particularly the presentation of the defence case can be constructed with the media and their needs in mind. Outside the courtroom the defense must decide how much co-operation, and how much information will be given out. Loose lips can give the prosecution a pipeline into the defense committee and strategy.

If the defense is going for media coverage then it is important for committee members and others involved to establish solid relations with reporters and others covering the case. Don't trust any journalists but cooperate with all. The defence group can establish a media liaison committee to give out information when necessary, set-up and lay down guidelines for interviews, and provide background material when requested during the trial.

After the trial itself, follow-up is extremely important or the impact of the trial, and in many cases months of work, is lost. Press releases and final statements should be sent to all media and stories and background summing up the case and issues involved should be quickly provided to all sympathetic media. Publications are more likely to print stories when they have the complete facts immediately available rather than a cryptic press release.

In the end, defending oneself, which is supposedly a basic right before the law, turns out in practice to be like most basic rights—it can only be exercised with great difficulty and risk. Fortunately, more and more prisoners and accused persons are fighting for that right and in the process are turning the courts inside out.

By Ken Ascaso

Prisoners herded like cattle...

DESTINATION UNKNOWN

THE ENFORCED TRANSFER of prisoners is an intrinsic part of the prison system. Within the prison, from cell block to solitary; and from

prison to prison in accordance with your classification, you will be moved, not necessarily willingly. Moving is generally better than not moving at all. "Vegetation sucks," wrote one long time prisoner, Steve Hall, in solitary—"passivity is really a form of suicide." When you're in solitary any change is a diversion. This is fine with the authorities who use diversion as one of their main tactics in blocking any effort prisoners might be making for their own benefit. Transfers are used to divert prisoners' energy, to manipulate and divide, demoralize, disrupt prisoners' lives. The threat of possible transfer is used just as freely to control prisoners' actions and work up anxiety. Anxious prisoners are more likely to cooperate. A transfer means a prisoner will be virtually cut off from the network of support systems both within the prison and with the larger community, specifically, established legal aid and

family and friends. Sudden transfers and threats of transfer function simultaneously as diversion, control and restraint.

Organizing under such conditions is difficult, if not devastating, as it is intended to be. One of the most frustrating aspects is the severance of continuity, the interruption of carefully laid plans, the slow process of litigation or any other effort to effect change. Inevitably, after a hostage taking or a group break for freedom, partners are separated immediately. Complicated by the fact that one is always proceeded by one's record and reputation, it's back to square one.

Another source of extreme frustration is the evasiveness the authorities like to maintain regarding their intent. Rumours abound and are fed by the system which toys with the lives it controls. For security reasons, through inefficiency, or from calculated indifference, it is wildly unlikely that those concerned with a prisoner's well being, including the prisoner, will get a clear or definite answer to questions concerning transfer dates.

Solitary confinement at the B.C. Pen in New Westminster B.C. Canada, is a case in point. The solitary unit has been condemned and some prisoners have now been transferred to Ontario. However, before they were transferred, no indication was given to the prisoners as to when this would be. They reassured all callers yet admitted, when pressed, the word could come the next day. An astonishing lack of consideration is revealed by the further fact that almost no extra visiting privileges were facilitated—especially considering the vast distances to be placed between people who care about each other. This lack of regard is, unfortunately, only typical. It's what the prison system is all about.

This problem of enforced transfers may be more acute in Canada, and the larger countries due to enormous distances involved. The situation is no less oppressive in many regions, for minor offenders as well as for those serving long stretches of time. If you are arrested in a small town, you will be confined there in the local jail only until arrangements can be made to send you to the prison considered appropriate to your crime. In Canada a person serving less than a two year sentence will go to a provincial institution. After a period of observation a further arrangement may be made with the correction center or some other minimum security setting. For a short timer, this means that time locked away includes this shunting around and the extra addressments this requires.

By Emma Lazarus

Developing ties between women inside and the feminist movement...

LOCKED-DOWN SISTERS STRUGGLE

There's a really strong thing happening with the feminist movement and the consciousness of women locked away. It's a two-way strengthening. As prisoners are continually awakening to the understanding that their situation is not an apolitical or isolated one, they are connecting up with people on the outside who are working right now against the social and economic systems that enslave us. The feminist movement has begun, in a larger way, to see state oppression more clearly and how any insubordination to its control can send women behind bars.

Because of the nature of what women are locked away for—economic, victimless "crimes" and "crimes" of self-defense—it has become clear to them and to women on the outside that it is the total injustice of a sexist society that determines their life.

In the case of "crimes" with victims, most fit into the self-defense category. So again, women are suffering the second injustice of being locked up for striking back against a rapist, husband, father, or boss who already had been stomping sexist injustice over their heads.

What is happening now, on both sides of the bars, is a dual understanding of the commonality of what we have been receiving, where it is coming from and how to fight against it. It has been the shared contact of women inside and the feminist movement that is producing this understanding—and the constant expansion of it. Much has been gained on both sides, as we have seen in cases like with Inez Garcia, Joanne Little, and Yvonne Wanrow. Nobody can underestimate the strength that the support of a large movement, like the feminist one, can add to an individual woman's hope and all the efforts of women in prison, or facing it, to fight their cases on the streets, in the media and with public outcry.

URGENT SITUATION

Along with the general support that the movement can give to those prison struggles that relate directly to the work that feminists are already engaged in (eg. rape), there is an urgent need for feminists and prison activists to work around the issues specific to women prisoners. The conditions in women's jails and prisons are often overlooked because of the wrong assumption that they are similar to those of the men's prisons and also because of the reformist nature of such work. But the prison system isn't destroyed in one wild bound, rather by a constant hammering away at its foundations.

Women, right now, are serving their time or pre-sentence wait in institutions so primitive that the struggle begins over immediate improvements. There are often few or no programs in women's institutions, and what programs are offered are in traditional, narrow fields such as hairdressing, beautician work, cooking, cleaning, and laundering. There are limited or no yard privileges, or libraries, or school courses, or cultural events, or facilities for women with children. The extreme inadequacy of medical care in the prisons is one of the more vital areas where there needs to be a whole turnaround. A woman gets no medical attention throughout her pregnancy, or a doctor, at Oakalla Women's Prison in British Columbia, does vaginal exams using toothpaste as a vaginal creme, gets suspended when it is publicized but then gets rehired—the range of atrocities is

wide. So, the demand for changes in conditions is very urgent. On the outside these struggles get translated into a massive education of the public in order to break the secrecy of the prisons.

NO MALE GUARDS

At Bedford Hills Prison for Women in New York, a fight has been waged, over a period of time, against the new policy of hiring male guards. In a privacy suit undertaken by the women at Bedford Hills against the presence of male guards in the living units, a preliminary injunction was issued by the judge ordering all male guards out of the living units at all times. But the final court decision has been heavily watered-down. Although some useful gains have been achieved, such as the male guards being restricted from the living units during the morning count and night shifts and from the shower area, they are still wandering free for the rest of the time.

Simultaneous with this court decision has come the increased repression of the women at Bedford Hills because of administrative frustration over the male guard suit and other protest actions. They have been using lock-ins and lock-outs to hamper movement, restricting activities so women are kept from talking in groups, hassling over mail and visit privileges, and confining certain activists, such as Carol Crooks, to segregation. The struggle doesn't stop as the repression mounts, though. The women are going to appeal this decision over the Bedford Hills privacy suit. Throughout the country, more women are following the example of Bedford Hills as male guards are being intro-

duced into more and more prisons. Women prisoners at Goree, Texas have filed a suit over yet another case of a prisoner getting pregnant after a guard's attack, and women at King's County Jail in Seattle are fighting against male guards in their living units.

Recurring in all the hassling around male guards is the prime issue of privacy for the prisoners. Male guards deny them privacy more than female guards because of the leering sexual nature of their invasion, particularly in their duties (and non-duties) around the women's shower and cell areas and the strip and skin searches. Yet the right to privacy is a more fundamental right than merely who is invading it. While fighting against the introduction of male guards into women's prisons, it must be realized that beyond that is the demand that no one, regardless of sex, has the right to force their presence into every moment of the prisoner's life. All guards oppress prisoners, it is the function of the system, but the invasion of privacy doesn't stop until guards, male and female, get their hands off the women's bodies and their peering faces out of the wash areas and their flashlights out of the women's rooms at night.

"VIOLENT" WOMEN

A few years ago, the State decided that newer and better prisons were needed to house a new breed of women prisoners, "violent" women. Only now that these prisons have been built, it appears that there are no women to lock up there since there has actually been a decrease in the number of "violent"

crimes done by women, but there has been a change in attitude toward women. One such new prison is the Federal Correctional Institution for Women in Alderson, West Virginia with its Maximum Security Unit for "dangerous offenders." What all of these classifications represent is the ultimate excuse of the State to act outside of the law and the bill of rights. Any woman they want to get rid of, there is some category she can be fit into and placed in the Alderson Control Unit or a similar unit within any of the state prisons or mental hospitals.

Women prone to escape ("disciplinary problems"), women who have killed in self-defense ("violent"), women engaged in political activity against the State ("subversive/sophisticated criminal activity"), or women simply "notorious" all qualify for this solitary confinement. The women locked down in M.S.U. at Alderson fought, along with outside prison activists, to close down the unit. Within the last year, courts have ruled that due process is violated when a person is confined in such a unit based on the prediction that she could not function in the general population. It was also held that confining someone in a control unit because of her record of escape attempts constitutes preventive detention.

The Federal Bureau of Prisons announced that the Alderson M.S.U. would be closed in Nov. '78. Since then four women have remained there, three white and one black. Finally, around late January the unit was actually to be closed but only the white women were released into general population—including Rita Brown (urban guerrilla—George Jackson Brigade), Assata Shakur (Black Liberation Army member serving a life sentence with no parole) was kept in isolation in M.S.U. Blatant racist injustice. Pressure by her supporters got her at least removed from that unit, but the authorities solution was to place her in segregated confinement in a men's penitentiary in New Jersey.

As more briefs and suits and protests continue against solitary confinement and control units for "violent" women, there are more devious channels used to achieve the same style of confinement. The names are changed but the reality of the cells remains the same, or the units are centralized into one structure and the image modernized, such as the federal adjustment centres. In Massachusetts a ward for "violent" women was scheduled for construction in the Worcester State hospital. The strong opposition to this was successful in stopping it in November '78 but since then \$600,000 has been donated to the local women's prison to convert cells there into maximum security.

WOMEN FIGHT BACK

One of the issues around women's imprisonment given the most attention by the feminist movement is the one of self-defense. Most of the violent crimes committed by women have been acts of self-defense against physical abuse by men. The abuse might have been years of battering by a husband or an attack by a rapist—in any case, the women are generally convicted and sentenced for protecting her own life. There is no law protecting a woman's right to defend herself, in fact the woman is as much condemned for stepping outside the passive role prescribed to her as she is for killing her assailant.

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GROWING TRENDS

In the 1980's, prison movement activists and others who resist authority will be facing two growing trends in the state's offensive against them. These

are: the building of increasingly repressive isolation units to hold the "troublemakers" of the system — (physical control); and the use of behavior modification techniques and drugs (psychological control). The articles on these two pages look at some examples of these trends — and why the struggle against them is such an important one.

Special handling units...

IRON GRIP ON PRISON REBELS

Canadian and U.S. prisoners who rebel against the system are facing a new threat to their resistance: the possibility of being shipped up to 3,000 miles away from their communities to one of the new "super jails," designed to house the "most dangerous" prisoners in the country. Christened "special handling units," their purpose is to isolate "problem" prisoners in one secure, central prison where they can be more easily monitored and controlled.

Candidates for the new jails are prisoners who organize inside the walls, escapees, "violent" prisoners and those sentenced for "political" crimes (such as the Geo. Jackson Brigade or AIM member Leonard Peltier.)

SECURITY = ISOLATION

The new control units provide maximum physical security with extra fences and barbed wire, while restricting movement within the prison and keeping programs and social contact to a minimum. The total isolation from the rest of the prison population is usually given by authorities as the reason why exercise, work and educational facilities are minimal or non-existent.

Some of the units, like the federal prison for men at Marion, Ill., combine this sensory and social deprivation with "behavior modification" programs and forced drugging — designed to break down resistance and re-model the prisoner into a manageable and compliant package. Others are designed as simply escape-proof "containment units" for prisoners with long sentences and a reputation for fighting back.

In Canada there are two of these control units: both for men — the Correctional Development Centre (CDC) in Montreal, and the Special Handling Unit (SHU) of Millhaven Penitentiary near Toronto. In 1976, during legislative debate on the abolition of the death penalty, the Canadian government announced its plans to create the two units as a means of easing opposition to the abolition bill by police and prison guards. The "new" units in reality turned out to be the solitary confinement units of two already-existing prisons — Millhaven and Laval. Prisoners are held in solitary confinement cells, associating with others in the unit for only a few hours each day. Visits are limited and strictly non-contact, with thick glass plate barring prisoner from loved ones. Many prisoners have no contact with the outside world at all. There is no work available, and exercise and reading materials, hobbies, etc. are restricted. The diet and medical care are inadequate, and several prisoners have died due to neglect or ignorance in emergencies.

But prisoners say it is the hopelessness of the units that is their worst feature. Virtually all the prisoners in the units

are serving long sentences — many will not even be eligible for parole until the next century. Suicides and self-mutilations run at three times the rate of general prison populations.

But the prisoners are also fighting back. Several have taken the units to court — challenging their existence on the basis of "cruel and unusual punishment" and denial of legal and human rights. In one case currently before the Federal Court of Canada, a

surrounded by an 8 foot fence topped with three rounds of barbed wire and concertina wire. The only keys were kept by a guard outside the walls, summoned by radio or telephone to let inside guards through the two massive steel doors. Prisoners held there were totally isolated from the women in the rest of the prison — medical and legal facilities were poor — and there were only 11 "jobs" available (in prison industries) for up to 35 women. Officially, the women were supposed to "work their way out" of the unit via the undefined "stratification program." But there was no written description of the program, and no set criteria by which a woman would be evaluated for release.

"Alderson was created as a lockup for the most unwanted 'troublesome,' 'notorious' and politically active women in the prison system. It is a way to cut them off from other prisoners. It is a method by which they can be legally deprived of what rights and freedoms, comforts and rights of access they might have as prisoners in the general population of a prison. The political implications of the unit are obvious."

— National Prison Project

LEGAL VICTORY

The National Prison Project proceeded to build a grass-roots

campaign around closure of the unit, using as its leverage point the recent "Bono vs. Saxbe" decision of the U.S. Federal Court. This decision (in the case of a prisoner fighting transfer to the men's supermax at Marion) said that it is illegal "to place a prisoner in a particular prison setting on the basis of that prisoner's behavior inside prison."

According to Bono vs. Saxbe, many women in the MSU were there in violation of their legal rights. The National Prison Project organized a letter writing campaign emphasizing this point, and protesting the denial of human rights and the use of such "repressive, arbitrary and non-specific programs" by prison authorities.

When visited by two women from the

National Prison Project in Washington,

D.C., J.D. Williams, Assistant Director

of Prisons, said that the Bureau would

close the unit, but "would not dismantle

the security of the unit." He said that if

there was "a public outcry for isolation

of women," he would not hesitate to

"open the key to the MSU."

The MSU at Alderson was "officially

closed" January 9, 1979. Most of the

women, including Rita Brown, were

moved into general population at

Alderson, while Assata Shakur was put

into "administrative

segregation" — another part of the MSU

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Solitary confinement cells...

prisoner of the CDC is suing the government and penitentiary authorities for release from the unit — citing the Canadian Bill of Rights and a Federal Court decision in B.C. (the McCann case), where similar conditions in the B.C. Penitentiary were held to be "cruel and unusual punishment."

And at Alderson women's prison in West Virginia, a public pressure campaign and legal opposition has closed down the Maximum Security Unit there. The unit was created two years ago, as a response to what the U.S. criminal justice system was calling a "new breed" of violent women prisoners, supposedly an outgrowth of the movement for women's liberation. FBI statistics however, indicate a large decrease in the percentage of women arrested for violent crimes since 1960. The National Prison Project, which led the campaign to close down the MSU, was quick to draw attention to these contradictions, and to publicize the real reasons for the unit — sexism, racism and political repression.

GUERRILLAS HELD

Among the women held there were urban guerrillas Assata Shakur (Black Liberation Army) and lesbian/anarchist Rita Brown of the George Jackson Brigade.

The heavily secured unit was

Mental institutions...

IMPRISONING BODIES TO CONTROL MINDS

MENTAL INSTITUTIONS are prisons also. Although there are hundreds of thousands of people locked in prisons in North America there are about equally as many people (approx. 300,000) imprisoned in mental institutions. Mental "patients" are usually not considered when we look at who is imprisoned even though the conditions they are forced to endure are often worse than those prisoners face.

Mental institutions are prisons because they are used for the same purpose as prisons. The primary purpose of mental institutions is to confine people and keep them removed from society. There are numerous medical and social "justifications" of why mental institutions are necessary but they do not alter the fact that mental institutions are places of incarceration.

"Nights I was strapped hand and foot to a cot, face down, head toward the radiator, window shut and barred, no air, no water, door locked with peephole to watch patients die or live. I lay every night strapped for 10 to 14 hours, swimming in my own vomit, urine, bowel movement and blood running from my bowels to dispel the drugs, constantly drooling from the mouth—from the day before Thanksgiving until Christmas morning when the last electric shock nearly killed me. I gave up, my heart would not beat. They used oxygen to revive me." — Personal testimony of an ex-mental patient.

People are confined in mental institutions because they are not conforming. This is why people are in prisons as well. The functioning of our society is based on conformity. We are required to exhibit acceptable status quo behavior or we are removed from society. People are forced into mental

EPIDEMIC: BEHAVIOUR MOD. SPREADING

THERE IS AN increasing trend in the North American "Corrections" industry toward a fusion of what the professionals like to refer to as the "custody" and "treatment models" of incarceration. In other words—prisons and mental hospitals are becoming increasingly alike. This trend is especially evident in prisons where "behavior modification" has replaced "rehabilitation" as the official policy. One of the most infamous examples of the behavior mod. approach is the START program at Springfield medical prison in Missouri, USA. Eventually killed by a lawsuit in 1974, the START (Special Treatment and Rehabilitative Training) program involved a graded system of rewards and privileges given for increasing co-operation with prison authorities. This was coupled with extreme punishment (beatings, forced drugging, solitary confinement and denial of food) for not co-operating. But more significantly, punishment was used as a routine part of the program—to make the "rewards" seem more worthwhile.

Traditionally, people in the business of "correcting" those who committed crimes have been concerned with

keeping them securely locked away—occasionally making attempts at moral reform. With the advent of the theory that those who defy society's dictates are "sick" (and who therefore can be "treated") and "cured" of their anti-social malaise—the pseudo-psychiatric approach to prisons came into vogue. This in turn has led to many "experimental" programs being carried out on prisoners in attempts to "modify their behavior" through mind-altering drugs, sensory deprivation, psychological game playing, etc.

Behavior mod. programs may represent the biggest threat to prisoners who resist authority since prisons were invented. Behavior modification is an attempt to push the limits of control beyond total physical restraint (maximum security prisons) to psychological control—through drugs, psychosurgery, etc. Imagine a prison population entirely under the influence of powerful drugs like Thorazine—the "chemical lobotomy"—or numbed into submission by the application of electric shock treatments or brain surgery. The walls and bars, the guards with rifles are hardly necessary anymore—the perfect measure of control has been achieved from within—through the prisoner's own mind.

institutions to hide the fact that not everyone is conforming, that some people cannot cope with how society operates, and that these people have no place in society. Prisoners break laws, mental "patients" act funny, behave differently, think deviant. They might be happy or sad, loud or quiet, active or passive, it doesn't really matter what, they are locked-up because someone thinks they are no longer conforming to the status quo.

BASED ON LIES

Both mental institutions and prisons are based on lies. These lies are developed to keep us ignorant of the actual purpose of the institutions. We are told that mental "patients" are "mentally ill" and that mental institutions are "hospitals" where they can receive "treatment". Far from being a medical facility, a mental institution is where "patients" are confined and punished for their "deviant" behavior and forced to change or be confined indefinitely. Disguised as a medical facility, mental institutions operate as institutions of social control.

The lie about mental institutions being medical treatment centers is similar to the one about prisons being for rehabilitation. Prisons exist to punish and get some slave labour from the prisoners. Both mental institutions and prisons consider someone "treated" or "rehabilitated" when they are willing to function quietly and submissively according to the dictates of a profit-oriented society. The functional goal of both institutions is the same: determine who is salvageable and return them to their roles, and confine and degrade those who are not. The use of long term confinement for mental "patients" is proven to be anti-therapeutic, as it has been for prisoners, however permanent institutionalization is seen as the solution for "patients who refuse to get better".

While officially described as "rehabilitative" in intent and designed to "discourage negative behavior and pessimistic attitudes by the inmate", the START program was clearly intended to re-program the most resistant and politically aware prisoners, especially those seen as "leaders" by their fellow convicts. Expert witnesses who testified in early hearings against START called it a "travesty", perhaps punishment for political prisoners disguised by medical terminology, and said that the program "did not observe any of the scientific principles of behavior modification, and in fact constituted straight, unwarranted punishment". Also that the "severe sensory deprivation of prisoners in START constituted a grave psychological danger".

This and other testimony in a lawsuit initiated by prisoners in the program resulted in START's dismantling by the U.S. Federal Court. However the response by prison authorities has been to intensify their efforts in designing and implementing new programs in other prisons throughout North America.

MEDICAL TORTURE

Behavior modification programs in different guises are springing up everywhere. In Canada there are several "regional medical centres" where prisoners from the penitentiaries are sent to receive psychiatric treatment. The use of behavior controlling drugs and electro-shock are standard practice in these centres, and although admittance to the facilities is theoretically voluntary, a transfer there may be a prisoner's only way to escape from the horror of protective custody or solitary confinement units in other prisons.

There was an early attempt to get behavior modification off the ground in

Canadian prisons in 1969 at a specially-built facility in Montreal, Quebec. Called the "super" (for super-maximum), it had a program similar to START in function and in repressive tactics. Prisoners were forced to participate in a program of four successive "stages", earning more "privileges" (such as the right to wear clothes) as they were allowed into the next stage. The program was finally shut down after a lawsuit.

Similar programs have been used at many federal and state prisons across the U.S., including Attica, San Quentin, Vacaville, Ca., Marion, Ill. and many others. (See article on Special Handling Units.) Prisoners at Walla Walla Penitentiary in Washington state were subjected to a "role playing therapy" which forced them to wear diapers and crawl around on the floor carrying baby bottles. Other prisoners were beaten and chained to beds. This particular regime was also stopped after a lawsuit, but Walla Walla prisoners are still struggling against behavior mod. strategies at the prison.

The development of behavior modification is an integral part of the authorities' offensive against prisoners in North America. Given the favorable climate for research into mind/behavior control, it is a strategy which can be expanded upon indefinitely. The implications for the rest of society are obvious.

For more information about the struggle against behavior mod. contact the following groups: Nat'l Ctee. to Support the Marion Bros.; Coalition to Stop Institutional Violence; Nat'l Prison Project (ACLU). (For addresses see the contact list in this issue.)



The image of mental "patients" as raving maniacs is equally as untrue. For example, a large number of mental "patients" are old people (approx. 50% in New York state). The natural process of aging and dying are labeled as symptoms of mental illness to justify locking people up—much as smoking pot is labeled criminal. Another large group of mental "patients" are young people in conflict with adults—kids who do not conform to parental restrictions or do

not like school. Schizophrenia is the pseudo-medical classification of many mental "patients". Schizophrenic behavior includes sadness, frustration, confusion, anger, and rebellion. What most people do not realize is that they might have been declared mentally ill if forced to see a psychiatrist after a bad day on the

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CANADA IS ONE OF THE most advanced countries in the world today, but its repressive mismanagement of the prison system is a regression into the past. The

reactionary forces at work within the Canadian Correctional Service are a consciousness advened from the lowest prison official to the Solicitor General, the Cabinet Minister responsible for prisons.

Over the years there have been many commissions and investigations into the prison system, concluding with the Parliamentary Subcommittee hearings in 1977, and their reports to Parliament. It is now two years later, but here we are still living in the dark ages. A group of Parliamentarians unanimously condemns the prison system, and they make 63 recommendations for corrective action, but the Solicitor General, who ordered the investigation in the first place, virtually ignores their findings. No attempts have been made at concrete changes, and we certainly shouldn't expect any in the near future. So where does that leave us?

DEPEND ON OURSELVES

Under the present circumstances it leaves us exactly nowhere, especially with Canadian politics swinging more to the right every year. People don't understand about prisons, and a lot of them don't want to understand. Anytime there is a Federal election, or the economic situation isn't very stable, prisoners are always the first to feel the effects. Many statements were made by the government concerning the prisons in December and January. Obviously the Liberals gearing up for election.

If we continue to sit around on our hands and allow the government to go on with their lies, keeping the people turned against us, then we deserve what we get. On the other hand, if we begin to organize now, in a matter of five years time we could have an effective, well-organized Trade Union fighting for our rights, and Prisoners Trade Unions have been proven to be very effective where they exist. Notably in Scandinavia.

The Canadian Correctional Service has maintained effective control over its prisons through the use of severe repression, i.e.—psychological head games, strong-arm tactics, racial discrimination, policies aimed at dividing and conquering the population.

Prisoners who stand out as leaders are subjected to brutal punishment—beatings, gassings, indefinite solitary



that is to seek assistance from established Trade Unions. They can be of tremendous help to us. In the meantime we must formulate our own ideas and put them into practise.

ORGANIZING ON THE INSIDE

To organize a prison properly takes a great deal of time, patience, and understanding. The frustrations of day to day hassles can be a great burden to the person trying to bring it all together

hand, and negotiations are taking a turn for the better. Victory on the demand points is not far away. Then some hotheads in the population who don't really give a fuck about the outcome, decide it's time to riot and smash up the prison. Only in the end it doesn't ever work out that way. A few of the tiers and cells get smashed, but most of the prison stays intact. The government throws a few million bucks back into the

started. One very good way is through an underground paper, distributed to each cell tier. You can form a small group under the social development program and have your meetings once a week in the room provided for this purpose. Once you have a group such as this set up you can begin inviting outside people to your meetings. A good idea would be to pick an established group such as the Civil Liberties, or

population signed up as union members in order to begin to attain legal recognition. If word of your activities should get back to the administration, and you know they will, it will be impossible for them to single out all of the people involved. They can't lock everyone up, and they can't transfer everyone out, so as long as we continue to step into the shoes of those they do, they can't destroy the Movement.

food will be cut to two or three sandwiches a day; either half an hour yard exercise, or none at all; they will raid all of the cells and remove all or most of your personal property; they will take your earned remission; you will be told that you will never get a parole or a transfer; they may try to pressure you through your family; there will be scabs amongst the population and they will use them against you; there will be continual harassment from the guards—in the end, through perseverance, they will run out of things to do to you, and by that time the pressures from outside support groups will have mounted to such a pitch that the CCS will be forced to negotiate.

During the strike it will be up to every individual to see to it that we all pull together. Some prisoners will be able to participate in the strike standing on their heads, so to speak, but others will have a rough time of it. It will be up to those of us who can stand the strain to help our comrades who are shaking it rough. It will be a time for forgetting all the little animosities that exist between us. We will all be living together in a very tense situation, and the frustrations and tempers will tend to flare after a lengthy stay in the cells. Weather conditions have a great deal to do with temperament, so the right time of the year to hold the strike is very important. Naturally it wouldn't do to hold the strike in the middle of the summer. The best time would be around September, and on through the winter, when we will be a lot more comfortable in the cells. Above all we must remember one highly important point. This strike must be a peaceful, non-violent one. There must be no action taken to jeopardize our position. As long as we remain calm and stay in our cells there is nothing the CCS can do except make empty threats. There is no way that they will be able to cope with passive resistance.

OUTSIDE ORGANIZING

One of the biggest difficulties facing us is in the lack of interest on the part of ex-prisoners in getting involved in outside organizing. There are many prisoners and ex-prisoners who, while serving their time in maximum security, participated in many revolutionary actions such as work strikes, hunger strikes and sit-downs. These men went through absolute hell, throwing themselves into the Struggle with the utmost disregard for their own safety, yet when they were released they elected to resume their old life-style, and not to involve themselves with street organizing. This shows folks that the

subjected to brutal punishment — beatings, gassings, indefinite solitary confinement, denial of visits, tampering with the mail, day to day cell searches, theft of personal property, and unwanted transfers (called scoops by prisoners) far away from family and friends. Prison administrations will go to any lengths in trying to break a prisoner's spirit, and discourage leadership in the prison. Other prisoners are terrorized with threats of solitary, loss of privileges, loss of earned remission (time off), denials of paroles, and transfers to mediums.

FIGHT APATHY

In the medium and minimum security prisons, the threat of being sent back to maximum is almost enough to keep the majority in line, but the threats carry much more weight because the prisoners have much more to lose, such as temporary absences, open or contact visiting, family socials (families come inside the prison for most of the day), day paroles, and national paroles. All of these things help to contribute heavily to the apathy found in Canadian prisons today.

So does the drug culture, which exists everywhere. Most people who are into it like to smoke a joint once in awhile, but a lot of them will carry it to the extreme and stay high as often as they can. Anyone who is high that often will be out of touch with reality, and couldn't care less about anything except their own trip.

The same can be said for television in the cells. Nothing could be more damaging to the prison movement, especially in maximum security where prisoners already have nothing. Just give someone in a maximum a t.v. in their cell, and then try to talk them into going on strike for prisoners' rights. I will say that they should be allowed in solitary, but they should only be accepted by the prisoners if there are no conditions along with them, such as that apparently done by the director of Millhaven in regards to the Special Handling Unit. He loves to dangle carrots over guys' heads. Anyone who has a t.v. in their cell under these conditions should throw it out, and get into some heavy reading and writing. Be strong and maintain your beliefs — **DON'T THROW YOUR PRINCIPLES DOWN THE SHITTER FOR A T.V.**

START NOW

Everything is against us right from the start, but one thing that we have and they don't, and that's plenty of determination and fortitude. Organizing for a National Prisoners Trade Union is the only course we have left, other than fighting fire with fire, and if we are going to get started a lot of us are going to have to know how to go about it. One thing we must do, and

standing. The frustrations of day to day hassles can be a great burden to the person trying to bring it all together, and to succeed where a great many others have failed will require, above all else, exceptional character, the kind that will gain the utmost respect from fellow prisoners.

One of the worst mistakes you can make while trying to plan an action within the prison is in not informing the whole population as to what is happening. There are arguments against this of course — informers running to the administration, giving it plenty of time to take counter action, locking up the leaders and making threats to the rest of the population. But it has to be a certainty that everyone knows what is going on at all times. Prisoners kept in the dark can become very resentful, and they will turn against you. This type of thing hurts the cause. Our objective is to gain support from our fellow prisoners, not to lose their support. This kind of thing has happened time and time again, and mostly because the action wasn't planned properly. There have been many spontaneous actions in the past, and most of them backfired. A group of prisoners or the elected committee meets with the administration to demand action while the rest of the population backs them up by refusing to lock up or go to work. Everything is going along fine — the situation is well in

the prison stays intact. The guards throw a few million bucks back into the prison, and we're back to square one, and the guards get another chance to justify their existence and tighter security measures. Witness all of the old prisons that have had riots, and which have been repaired again and again — Kingston Pen, British Columbia Pen, St. Vincent de Paul, and Dorchester. Every one of these prisons have also been condemned, not once, but many times. They speak for themselves.

NATIONAL STRIKE

Unless we all decide right here and now that we are going to tear down every prison in the country piece by piece so that they can never be repaired, we had better get our shit together and start organizing for a national strike, and I mean that we had better get started now, not five or ten years from now. It is the responsibility of the instigators to ensure that the rest of the prison population become politically aware; they must be taught what a Prisoners Trade Union is all about, and what it can accomplish in the way of trades training, minimum wage, living conditions, conjugal visits, parole, reconciliation towards society, and re-enfranchisement.

There are many ways of educating the population, but no matter how you do it should be done as covertly as possible, avoiding unnecessary risks that will get you scooped before you even get

into the group such as the Civil Liberties, or maybe a Law Union group. Never, I repeat, never invite such groups as the John Howard Society, or the Elizabeth Fry Society. These groups are pure establishment who will report your every move.

If you have a group of 15 to 20 prisoners who are ready and willing to concentrate their efforts towards a strike, and who are willing to listen to your ideas as well as express their own, you shouldn't have too many problems in raising the consciousness of the population. It may take your group a little time to get organized, because everything has to be co-ordinated through outside groups. A list of demands has to be drawn up by the national organizing committee, and agreed upon, and every prisoner has to be made aware of what those demands are. It will be up to the members of your group to make sure that every individual in the population is aware of what a Prisoners Trade Union is all about, and what the demands will be. It must also be understood that when negotiations begin they will be conducted in Ottawa by the national organizing committee. This, and no reprisals, will be the first demands made. Negotiations will not begin without these guarantees. Also keep in mind that before we go out on strike we must have three-quarters or more of the

movement. The Movement.

It will be the responsibility of the outside groups to supply you with all of the information you need concerning Prisoners Trade Unions. There are many good working papers put out by the established unions in some of the Scandinavian countries; also in California, and in Greenhaven, New York. Having this material in your possession will be of considerable help in organizing your prison.

Once we have all or most of the prisons signed up our next step will be a national strike. A very important factor in organizing the strike will be in making sure that every prisoner knows what he or she will be facing. Everyone must be fully prepared. If you are familiar with the four month sit-down in cells. (Archambault strike of 1976.) then you have a fairly good inside into what lies ahead. The Canadian Correctional Service and its government leaders will use everything at their disposal to break us. They will stop at nothing. They have ruled us with an iron fist too long, and will not give in easily. It will be a long hard fight.

From my own past experience, and some knowledge I have of the Archambault strike, I have put together some of the retaliatory measures that they will take... they will cut off all mail and reduce visits to one-half hour a month; they will cut off canteen privileges; the

izing. I've always felt sad about this because I have seen so many good people hit the street, with the brains and the guts to be great movers. I've talked to many of them, and tried to impress upon them just how important they are to the Movement, but so far I have only succeeded in getting them to go to the news media. I've always told myself that one day the right people will hit the street and bring it all together. I don't doubt it for a minute.

There are quite a few people in prison right now who are just waiting for some one to point them in the right direction, who are prepared to work for a Prisoners Trade Union on the street. The social groups previously mentioned are full of such people who have the intelligence, the initiative, and the heart to do the work that is needed, and there are many concerned citizens' groups ready and willing to give their full support.

COMBINED RESISTANCE

There will be many hardships and disappointments for those who devote their full time to the Prison Movement, among them being continuous harassment from the Parole Service and the police, who will be only too happy to get you back in as soon as possible. Therefore we will need a lot of protection from outside support groups. Besides established prisoners rights groups, we must have the support of Labor Unions, Civil Liberties groups, Law Unions, politicians, church groups, minority groups, professional people, lay people, and the news media. The more support we have the stronger our position will be. We must always keep it in mind that a Prisoners Trade Union is for prisoners. Therefore it is us who must organize it. No-one else is going to form our union for us, and we certainly don't want them to. It is our objective to organize the prisons, and nothing must be made to stand in our way.

Combined resistance is the only way that we shall ever win recognition of our human and civil rights. The revolutionary strike at Archambault Maximum Security Prison in Quebec was immensely successful. It was certainly the first time that the Canadian prison revolution had been brought into such clear focus. It is not very hard to imagine what a strike like this nation-wide would do to the Canadian Correctional Service. They would go into a panic. Everything would be shut down — they would lose untold millions of dollars that they earn each year through slave labor. Outside support groups, many world-wide organizations, families and friends, and the news media together would create such a mass protest that the CCS would

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PRISONERS' TRADE UNIONS...

PRISONERS' TRADE unions have been in existence for a long time, notably in Scandinavia, England, California, and New York. The most advanced and accomplished trade unions are in Scandinavia, where they have been fighting for prisoners' rights for many years, and in most instances, quite successfully.

Canadian prisoners, at the moment, do not have a trade union. What we do have are Prisoner Committees elected by the prison population to meet with the various administrations, but in most cases these committees turn out to be very ineffective. Committees are only as good as the members and the population make them, and because of this no real headway has been made. This leaves us without an effective voice to stand up for our rights. A Prisoners Trade Union could do this. Let's take a look at some of the reasons why we need a trade union, and what the union could conceivably do to change the

situation.

To begin with, Canadian prisoners are exploited to the utmost by the government. We are made to work five days a week in industrial shops that turn out such things as mail bags for the Canada Post Office, office and cell furniture for the Canadian Correctional Service and various Ministries, printed matter, clothing, and more, for which we are paid the slave wage of 90 cents a day. We are paid every two weeks, which averages out to about nine or ten dollars for two weeks of slave labor in the sweat shops. Out of this nine or ten dollars the government makes us buy our tobacco, stamps, writing paper, pens, envelopes, soap, shampoo, toothpaste, and numerous other necessities of everyday life that most normal people require. By the time a prisoner has bought his or her articles there is absolutely nothing left for other amenities.

Meanwhile, the government is saving literally millions of dollars a year. If they had to have the mailbags made on the street, the workers would have to be

paid the minimum wage, and I have no doubt that they wouldn't do this kind of work for the minimum wage for very long. They would soon form a union and demand higher wages. And what about the people who work in printing shops on the street. They are making over ten dollars an hour for the same work that prisoners are doing for 90 cents a day, and there are several large print shops in Canada's maximum prisons which do all the printing for the Canadian Correctional Service as well as printing for numerous government offices. We must never forget the licence plates that have been churned out for years at the Provincial maximum security prisons or jails. Exploitation at its worst. Prisoners there have been subjected to unsafe working conditions since they first began making them and there is no protection for those who lose their fingers or their hands. In fact, many men and women in Canada's prisons are working under unsafe conditions every day. If we are seriously hurt on the job we will be lucky

to draw a measly compensation check from the government. Certainly no prisoner will be awarded a just settlement from the government, or by going through the courts. There is no place for the prisoner to turn to.

Canadian prisoners do not receive proper or adequate trades training. For a man or woman who is going to be in prison for a term of five years or more, especially in maximum, there are absolutely no opportunities to obtain an apprenticeship of his or her choice. People serving large sentences, of from ten to twenty years or more, are going to be spending a great deal of time in maximum. Most prisoners do not want to waste their time. They want to learn something while they are inside. It is the same with education. Most prisons do not provide adequate education programs and facilities. Very few prisons have a full-time education program on through to university. Matsqui medium has such a program, but Millhaven maximum doesn't. The same can be

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Black slavery was 'legally' abolished in 1865 in the U.S. — but we know better. While only 11.5% of the US population is Black, 50-80% of the prison population is Black; and 80-90% of

women in prison are Black, according to the African National Prison Project. In Georgia the majority of the prisoners are black — and the state has the highest incarceration rate in the world — higher even than South Africa. The prisoners are put to work on the prison farms as they are in every Southern state.

Racism is rife — and used by the prison administration to divide the prisoners from one another. The kind of incident that led to the Attica riot of Sept. 71 — where white prisoners were bribed by the authorities to start fights with black prisoners in the yard — still occurs regularly. (The guards shot the black prisoner — and then blamed another black prisoner for his death, forcing the white prisoners to be witnesses to save their own necks. It is in the interest of the prison administration to divide black and white prisoners. Unity is a threat.

Last year the Governor of Georgia — George Busbee, called for the execution of 'rebellious' prisoners. This remark was made at a press conference where he demanded the executions of six innocent black prisoners, who had been indicted on charges of killing a prison guard and two racist prisoners, during a rebellion on July 23 '78 at Reidsville prison. Reidsville prison has had a policy of segregation of black and white prisoners for sometime, on Busbee's orders.

On March 16th of the same year, at Reidsville, a black prisoner — James Moss — was set upon by white prisoners armed with axes and pieces of steel made into knives. Everything points to a set up by the guards. Fifteen other prisoners were wounded in similar attacks that day. It is not difficult to see how such incidents occur. Prisoners united are a threat. Divided, they are easier to manipulate and exploit.

Racism on the rise...

TOUGH LUCK IF YOUR SKIN'S NOT WHITE

Guards with admitted Ku Klux Klan sympathies are employed, and constantly harass and provoke both black and white prisoners — playing them off against one another — using bribes, threats, favours to prevent them uniting against a common oppression.

Nevertheless, the prisoners at Reidsville remain unified. After the March 16th incidents an Inmate Unity Committee was set up — it demanded an investigation into prison conditions and the appointment of impartial prison guards and administration. All demands were turned down by the governor, who refused to change anything. And so the system persists — but so does the commitment of the prisoners who formed the committee.

The case in Alabama — that of Imani on death row — is also a case of gross racism. Arrested on his way to work in 1970, Imani, a black man, was charged with four robberies and with 'forcibly ravishing a female.' At this time in Alabama these crimes were punishable with the death penalty. His lawyers tried to get him to plead guilty — and when he insisted on his innocence they neglected to contact any witnesses or otherwise prepare his defence. He was eventually forced to plead guilty (even though he had protested his innocence throughout) in exchange for a life sentence. He was quickly made to sign a plea, which he was afterwards told was a guilty plea on all charges, for which the judge handed out five life sentences.

In 1974 Imani was confined in segregation for trying to escape. The

segregation units had no beds, an overflowing pail for a toilet, and no recreation or showers. The prisoners organised a group called 'Inmates for Action'. They made demands which were refused, so they went on strike — leaving the sugar cane in the prison's fields to rot. The response was brutal beatings by the administration.

Later Imani and others were convicted of murdering a guard during a hostage taking — (provoked by the guards themselves) where the Warden



Unidentified execution...

launched a full-scale shooting attack on the prisoners and one guard died. The judge at Imani's trial told the jury they didn't have to believe he was guilty to convict him (there was no evidence anyway) — but that he deserved to die because of his part in the rebellion. Black people used to be lynched openly in the South — although it was

technically 'illegal' — the same thing still happens but it now has the stamp of legality on it, wrapped up in legal language and covered up behind cries of 'security' and 'justice'.

While black men are being framed on charges of murder and rape — black women are being charged with murder because they dare to defend themselves against just that — murder and rape; but by white men.

Joanne Little (raped by a white male guard), Yvonne Wanrow (a Native Indian who protected herself and her child against a white man who had already raped a seven year old child) and Dessie Woods, a black mother of two children currently serving 22 years for successfully defending herself and a friend against an armed attack by a white rapist. These women's cases have been written about elsewhere — but they are only a small sample of the women who are victims of this racism and sexism.

Prisons are places where people who are a threat to the system are 'put away' — bringing back the death penalty will just mean legalizing 'lynching'. It will mean that any kind of protest against inhumane prison conditions will be to risk one's life — especially if you're black. Prison authorities will do what they can to set prisoners against each other — play prisoners off against each other — in order to make any action their ineffective. It happens on the outside and it happens on the inside too.

One organisation that has been set up to fight this situation is the African National Prisoner's Organization under what has been described as the "leadership" of the African People's Socialist Party. Their work is based on "the principled understanding that Imperialism, the enemy that oppresses black people in the form of colonialism, is the same imperialism that exploits us as working class people, as women, and as gay people. Our ultimate aim is to smash imperialism, in order to build socialism and a world based on human needs — not profit." They can be contacted at ANPO/SC, 625 Post St., Box 525, San Francisco Ca, 94109.

By Marie Lloyd

Canada, we've got no such protections. Parliament can do anything it wants in the area of rights."

Individual battles, such as against the prison being planned for the site of the 1980 winter Olympics at Lake Placid, N.Y., will continue to occupy moratorium activists in the coming months. But there are some larger trends, too.

One of the more significant of these is the growing realization that prison conditions in the southern U.S. are so atrocious that they stand in a class by themselves and merit special attention. For instance, the twelve southern states account for more than one-third of the total U.S. jail population, with fully 40 per cent of all new cells being planned or built. Four of the five most repressive states in the U.S. (based on incarceration rates) are in the South, and three other southern states are in the top ten.

The "leader" in this region has to be Georgia, which has an incarceration rate of 425 per 100,000 — higher than South Africa's (400), which has the highest rate of any country in the world. Like the rest of the South, and indeed the entire U.S., Georgia imprisons blacks at a rate far above their proportion of the population.

Overall for the U.S., about 570,000 people are behind bars. New prisons planned or under construction would increase this total by 186,000 in the next few years.

More information on the moratorium movement in the U.S. from the National Moratorium on Prison Construction, 324 C Street S.E., Washington D.C. 20003. In Canada, check with the Moratorium Committee on Prison Construction, Box 2175, Station D, Ottawa, Ont., K1P 5W4.

State wants more prisons...

WHO NEEDS 'EM!

By Fred Mobile

PRISON ACTIVISTS ACTIVISTS across North America are taking aim at prison walls that haven't even been built yet.

The idea of a "moratorium" (suspension) on construction of new prisons is gaining currency in the prison movement as it becomes clear that federal and local authorities are banking on a rapid expansion of prison facilities as a key instrument for social control in the 1980's.

A loose coalition of groups is now being knit together to contest such expansion. Their rationale: it should be easier to prevent construction before the first brick has been laid than to tear down the walls after they have been built and committed to use.

The moratorium movement is basically an exercise in public education — analyzing the cost of construction — both in terms of dollars and wasted lives — and presenting cheaper and more effective alternatives. Usually these alternatives mean more halfway houses, sentences involving "community service" rather than prison, easier paroles and day-pass programs and other flexible measures.

The campaign seeks to involve liberal, humanitarian and reform-minded elements in the fight against prisons, and its methods therefore reflect this constituency: lobbying of politicians and governmental agencies, appeals through the mass media and lawsuits and other forms of legal action.

So far, the track record is mixed, with some notable successes, but with some serious setbacks, too.

Among the successes:

- In California, moratorium groups have successfully lobbied two years in a row against a \$100 million prison construction bill submitted by the liberal hope, Gov. Jerry Brown. But the state legislature has toughened sentencing procedures, causing a 28 per cent increase in prison population in 1978, and Brown is back this year with his scheme.

- A \$15 million construction program in Alabama has been stonewalled by a lawsuit based on a recent court decision that the state's existing prison system is so repressive that it violates human rights standards of the U.S. constitution.

- The U.S. Congress has refused to allocate money for new prison construction in 1980 as a result of growing evi-

dence that the prison population could be stabilized with the increased use of "community treatment centres" (half-way houses) and other alternatives.

However, previously authorized construction goes on — including 24 new federal prisons and other correctional facilities (5,575 new cells) since 1970.

One of the biggest disappointments in the moratorium movement has been the experience in Canada, where the campaign against new construction has apparently had only a cosmetic effect on the government's plans.

The Canadian government had originally planned to construct 5000 new cells in the next five years, but late last year — under a new "policy of restraint" — announced a cutback because of budget problems, with the result that only five new prisons were to be built instead of ten. What was left unsaid in the self-serving cant about providing more humanitarian alternatives to prison, however, was that the number of new cells was to increase, and that the prisons would be larger and more repressive.

"I think the construction program is a fact now," said one Canadian activist.

"You know, we've had all these revelations about the RCMP (Mounties) illegally tapping people's mail and breaking into their houses, and yet nobody complains. People aren't concerned about their own civil liberties, why would they be concerned about those of prisoners?"

Another factor hindering the Canadian movement is the lack of any entrenched civil rights.

"At least in the U.S., you've got the Bill of Rights. There's a huge volume of prison case law based on that, but in

SEXISM INSIDE

INSIDE, RAPE IS THE ULTIMATE form of brutality between the men. Since prison life excludes the female as a victim of male sexual violence, prisoners find victims in other men, very often, men who are non-threatening, non-violent, young and often gay.

Men who rape other men use the same tactics to gain sexual, physical domination over their victims as against women and attack men who are less likely or able to defend themselves. Men who aren't gay upon entering prison but become involved sexually with another man often still view gays as perverted and contemptible. Usually the violence is a tactic used by stronger men to secure a "kid" sex slave and claim ownership over "desirable" young (gay) men. Or they may use a less physical, more subtle form of coercion to get this relationship. It's all the same game, though.

Two years ago at Washington State Penitentiary—Walla Walla, a number of prisoners formed a group, Men Against Sexism, whose intention was to destroy the barter system for exploitation of gay and physically weak prisoners. Men Against Sexism held meetings to discuss sexism in a personal way, as well as set strategies on specific problems inside. For example, 1) secure "safe" cells for vulnerable prisoners, 2) pull gay and passive prisoners out of Protective Custody and provide them with support and protection, 3) hold regular meetings to raise consciousness around sexism with topics like rape and male/female stereotyping.

Men Against Sexism included both gay and nongay men, as well as both black and white prisoners. But since the group began the situation at Walla Walla has altered significantly. With the wave of bomb discoveries and escape attempts in summer '78, the authorities have used every excuse to clamp down on groups like M.A.S. and destroy them

wherever possible. Dixie Lee Ray, governor of Washington, decided that the unrest at the prison was due to a liberal administration allowing the prisoners too much freedom and fired the staff at Walla Walla, replacing them with an old-style repressive administration. These changes have served to evaporate Men Against Sexism for the time being.

There are no rape crisis centres behind bars and most victims are forced to accept the consequences of the attacks over and over again. From one prisoner: "The long term effects in many people are the inability to feel emotions, depersonalization, suspicion of other people's motives in forming friendships and blind hate against the system which made the rape possible". If the rape victim reports the attack to the authorities he is facing the risk of being killed by his attacker. This is why many men resign themselves to protective custody units—the isolation at least gives them physical protection.

LOVE & STRUGGLE

Prison support groups on the outside have not been able to learn more than a fraction of what goes on inside around sexual violence and gay oppression. Prisoners and staff are reluctant to discuss what is really going down. But it's time that both inside and outside people thought about how we are all manipulated through conditioned sexuality, too. If nobody wants to submit to the force of the guards then why should anyone submit to the Plan to keep the prisoners fighting each other, not acting as equals and just basically reproducing all of society's crap.

Prisoners wanting to form Men Against Sexism groups could get people to pass in information from Rick English, at Box 520, Walla Walla Pen in Washington state or just start rapping together to see what could happen.

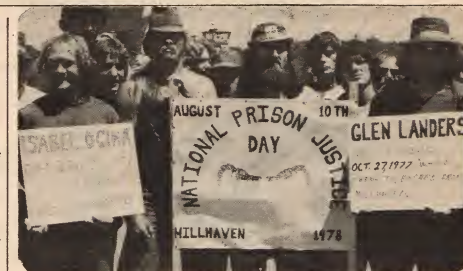
By Trulea Lepard

what their future behavior may be or on the opinion of a husband, boss, welfare worker, etc. backed up by two psychiatrists. Mental "patients" do not receive the right of a commitment trial where they can plead their "sanity" before a judge or jury.

Mental "patients" are legally unable to refuse "treatment". Forced druggings and electroshock are actually horrible forms of torture and psychosurgery is the ultimate violation of a living human being, but when a "patient" complains, this is seen as further evidence of the need for more "treatment". If one refuses to take their drugs they will be forced to by orderlies. Orderlies, as their name implies, are the psychiatric system's equivalent to prison guards. Orderlies often actively display their authority over and contempt for "patients"; when "necessary" they physically beat "patients" into submission. Incidents of orderlies using violence against "patients" is increasing.

Mental "patients", like prisoners, are forced to do slave labour before they are considered healthy. Their slave labour saves the state millions of dollars but does little for the "patients" themselves as the vocational training programs in most institutions are very inadequate. Like prisons, mental institutions do not prepare people for existing on the streets. Instead of developing a sense of autonomy and self-reliance, mental "patients" learn submission and dependence on others as they have had no control over their lives while locked up.

SEE PAGE 10



Thousands of prisoners strike on Aug. 10, National Prison Justice Day...

PRISONERS' UNIONS

FROM PAGE 7

said for most of the other maximums. Why shouldn't the maximums have the programs? Why shouldn't the maximums be paid the wages first? Why is it that the maximums, which do nothing now but breed violence and hatred, are always the last prisoners to receive any of the benefits?

One very good reason is that the government has let the guards' union dictate policy for years, and the guards certainly don't want maximum security prisoners being educated. Educated prisoners are a threat to their very existence. An educated prisoner has a very good chance of not coming back to prison after release, and if that started happening with every prisoner that went out, the guards would soon be out of a soft, secure, high-paying job, and all the bloodsuckers in the surrounding area who live off the prisoners, and who are usually in some way related to the guards and their families, would be howling about the money they are losing and the hardships they are having to go through because of it. The system propagates itself, and until we as prisoners decide to stand up and make a fight for our rights as one collective voice, it will continue to do so.

If we form a union now, in a few years time it is quite possible that many of our goals will have been met. We could have the minimum wage for all those working in industrial shops; we could have trades

training with apprenticeships in electronics, plumbing, electricians, bricklayers, auto-mechanics, carpentry, and printing, to name a few—we could also have a government Manpower program to pay us while we are learning; we could have just compensation for injuries on the job, and the right to sue for damages; we could have cleaner and safer working conditions, the right to qualify for Unemployment Insurance, and better educational programs up to and including university.

These are the central goals that a union must seek, and they are probably the easiest to achieve. Once the foundations have been laid, and these rights have been won, the way will be open to go after other highly important goals, such as abolishing solitary confinement, improving living conditions within the prison, getting a medical and dental program that matches the high standards set on the street, changing our useless, outdated parole system, having conjugal visiting and re-enfranchisement (getting back the right to vote).

A prisoners' trade union is the only way that we are ever going to have an effective, unified voice in Canada's prisons. If we are ever to have our civil and human rights recognized by the government and the courts, and above all, have those rights protected once we have them, we must have a union. It is the only conceivable solution in seeking our rights by legal and peaceful means.

By Howie Brown
May 1979

ORGANIZING INSIDE

FROM PAGE 7

have no choice but to submit to our demands.

Through organizing a Prisoners Trade Union we can build national unity, such as is being done now every August 10th on national Prison Justice Day. August 10th originated at Millhaven Maximum Security Prison in 1975 on the anniversary of Eddie Nalon's death, and since then it has spread to every major prison in the country, including provincial jails and reformatories. Many prisoners have come to recognize National Prison Justice Day as a day of protest against senseless deaths in prisons, and each year participate by going on a 24 hour fast, and refusing to work.

If we can do something like this one day a year for our dead and dying comrades, we can certainly hold a prolonged, well-organized national strike against the whole rotten system.

Much has been said and written about organizing both inside and outside the prisons. I do not profess to be an expert, nor do I lay any claim to being an intellectual. All I have tried to

do here is put down my thoughts on prison organizing, and the many problems that we face, especially with the wall of apathy that has to be broken down. It is my greatest hope that many prisoners will read this, and perhaps through what I have written here come to have a clearer understanding of the many problems that have to be overcome, and the benefits that can be gained through organizing a Prisoners Trade Union.

By Howie Brown
May 1979

Howie Brown is a 34-year-old Canadian prisoner who has spent a total of three of the past nine years in solitary confinement. He has participated in numerous strikes, fasts and insurgencies and is one of the main organizers of National Prison Justice Day, a coordinated series of prison work stoppages every August 10 across Canada. He is serving an 18-year term for manslaughter, and until recently was incarcerated at Millhaven Penitentiary in Ontario.

His proposal for a Prisoners Trade Union is now under consideration by a nationwide network of prisoners and prison groups. More information from Solitary Confinement Abolition Project, Box 758, Station A, Vancouver, B.C.

CONTROL MINDS

FROM PAGE 5

job, while standing in an unemployment line, while getting pissed off or complaining about being stuck in the home everyday cooking and tending the kids.

It is people who are poor and powerless who are locked in mental institutions and prisons. The commitment rate for black people to mental institutions is twice as high as white people. Both terms "mental illness" and "criminal mind" are labels invented to cover-up and mystify people's pain and desperation in their day to day existence. Mental institutions and prisons cannot help people with their problems because they will not deal with the root causes of why people are not conforming. People are "mentally ill" because of pressure, poverty, powerlessness, etc. and not the reverse as is often claimed. People break laws because they have no other, or reject other, means of survival, not because they have "criminal minds".

NO RIGHTS

People accused of mental illness have much fewer legal rights than people accused of committing a crime, therefore their lives are subject to greater intervention by the state. Mental "patients" do not have to commit a crime or even be accused of doing anything wrong to be committed to an institution. Often times they are committed on the basis of a psychiatrist's guess of



IRON GRIP

FROM PAGE 4
building. (She has since been transferred to a New Jersey men's prison.) In view of the expressed desires of authorities, and the fact that the unit has not been dismantled, it seems likely that it will eventually be re-opened, possibly as an additional segregation or punishment unit. The National Prison Project is still encouraging people to write to BOP officials and make enquiries about the future of the unit.

CONTROL UNIT

Meanwhile, at the Marion, Illinois penitentiary, prisoners are still fighting their battle to have the solitary confinement unit closed down. The notorious "Control Unit" at Marion was designated in 1972 by the U.S. Bureau of Prisons to replace Alcatraz, as its central "supermaximum facility" to house "troublemakers" from all parts of the U.S. and its colonies. Among the prisoners shipped to Marion have been: Puerto Rican nationalist Raphael Canel Miranda (convicted with Lolita Lebron in 1954 for an attack on the U.S. House of Representatives), AIM militant Leonard Peltier, and black anarchist prison organizer Lorenzo Kombo Ervin.

Physically similar to other "supermax" units, the Control Unit has the added feature of "behaviour modification programs" involving experimental brainwashing techniques and forced drugging of prisoners. Marion was designated as the "testing ground" in the U.S. for the use of behaviour modification programs on prisoners in 1968, under the label "CARE" (Control and Rehabilitative Effort). In 1972 the program was formalized as a separate ultra-segregation unit within the larger maximum security prison.

SUICIDE CELLS

The Control Unit's basic method of "treatment" is intense isolation and sensory deprivation of prisoners in the "boxcar cells" (6 by 8 feet, with three concrete walls and a solid steel door instead of the usual open bars) for long periods of time. Harassment and physical abuse are also used (beatings by a squad of guards, confiscation of property, destroying mail, etc.) The unit has caused the deaths of at least nine men in the last six years, including three suicides in 1977 alone.

Prisoners in the unit have formed a united front to organize the struggle against the unit, seeking support from a diverse group of activists, politicians, religious groups and others. There have been legal actions and strikes aimed at closing the unit since it started, with the most recent court ruling declaring the

boxcar cells "unconstitutional" and "cruel and unusual punishment." The Federal Court officially noted that torture methods have been used in the Control Unit and that it has been used "to silence prison critics... religious leaders... economic and philosophical dissidents." While seeming a victory for the Marion Brothers, this ruling a year ago actually left enough loopholes that the prison authorities were able to ignore it and were not forced to close the unit.

The National Committee to Support the Marion Brothers has since intensified its efforts to end the reign of terror at Marion. An occupation of the Bureau of Prisons office in St. Louis, Mo. last November drew national attention to the Marion Brothers' struggle, and in April of this year two separate investigations into conditions were being conducted. Both the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice and a national inter-faith religious delegation announced they would be sending delegates into the prison to inquire into its policies and conditions. Organizers for the National Committee say that they are moving ahead with the campaign, "confident that we will finally close the Control Unit." (The religious delegation has recently been denied access to the prison, according to the National Committee.)

Increased struggle against these special control units will be necessary in the near future in order to offset the determination of authorities to use them to break the strength of the prison movement. For more information on the situation in Canada, contact the Solitary Confinement Abolition Project, P.O. Box 758, Stn. A, Vancouver, B.C. Canada, or the Civil Liberties Assoc., 95 Rideau St., Ste. 201, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. For news on the Marion Bros. struggle, contact the National Committee to Support the Marion Bros., 4556a Oakland, St. Louis, Mo. USA 63110. And for information about Alderson prison for women, contact the National Prison Project, 1346 Connecticut Ave. NW, Ste. 1301, Washington, D.C. 20036.

By Holly Jackson

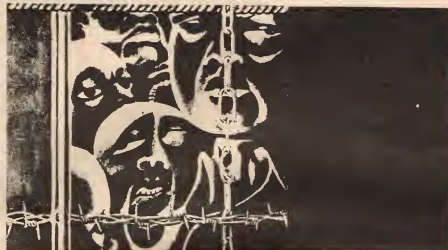
LOCKED-DOWN SISTERS

FROM PAGE 3

A precedent was set in the case of Yvonne Warrow, two years ago, when a Washington State Court reversed her conviction on the grounds that the use of the tape of her phone call was illegal, plus that the jury had not been instructed to consider her actions from the perspective of a woman under

attack! Several women have been acquitted using this precedent but again, May '79, Yvonne was retried. Pleading guilty to a lesser charge of second-degree manslaughter, she has now been given a five year probation with a stipulation to do community service. As Yvonne says, it has been the fighting sisterhood support she has received that has kept her from being immediately locked away for life. She has also gained an understanding that her harassment is not an isolated one but originates in the oppression of women and people of colour.

Dessie Woods, a black woman entering her third year on a charge resulting from her defensive shooting of a white racist, has received incredible amounts of publicity through the black nationalist movement, the prisoners' rights movement and the feminist movement. Joanne Little was acquitted on her charge after she killed a guard during his attack on her due to that same support. As awareness vibrates through the prisons, women are learning how they are so unjustly confined. Women on the outside are learning that the battered women refuges and rape relief centres are not



CONTROL MINDS

FROM PAGE 9

Mental "patients", as well as prisoners, have little if any say in determining how their institution operates. All the programs, therapies, and treatments are developed by "experts" who often don't know what they're doing or why. These "experts" are simply given a free hand by those in power to experiment and play with "patients' lives provided they keep them in custody until they are marketable again. It doesn't really matter what "experts" do to "patients", they can hook them on drugs, lock them up in isolation, fry their brains with shock, dissect their brains with knives and pins, so long as they get them to conform.

Even though mental institutions and prisons are both institutions of confinement, recently they are becoming even more closely connected. This is happening through technique sharing, primarily of psychiatric control practices. Prison psychiatric hospitals, where there are the fewest legal restraints on what can be done to prisoners, is where the two institutions most clearly merge.

Prisons are now using more and more techniques developed by the psychiatric system, such as therapy sessions, to control prisoners. Prisoners are being coerced into attending therapy sessions by making them almost mandatory if one wishes to obtain a parole. The "therapy" encourages prisoners to rat on other prisoners, attack themselves or others EST-style, and participate in all sorts of other mind games designed to get them thinking and acting status quo.

Behavior modification techniques are increasingly being used, complimenting brute force, to alter prisoners' behavior. Based on the reward/punishment model, prisoners are threatened with loss

of exercise time, mail privileges, phone privileges, visits, etc. if they don't shape up. Drugs are also being used more frequently to control prisoners. Psychiatric oppression techniques, as developed in mental institutions, will be more and more a part of the daily torture of prisoners' lives in the future.

As well, there is increasing emphasis on community mental health centers and halfway houses for mental "patients". These facilities serve the same function as probation and halfway houses for prisoners. In effect, mental "patients" after released from an institution are put on probation under the careful scrutiny of community guardians of public sanity. Far from replacing mental institutions, community mental health centers are growing along side mental institutions and serve to even widen the domain of psychiatric oppression.

Prison activists and activists in the anti-psychiatry movement must come to see more clearly the very close links between our struggles. Basically we are fighting against the right of the state or anybody to imprison people and mess with their minds. The state is attempting to control prisoners' minds, as well as their bodies, by working closely with mental institutions. We now must merge our struggles and work together to oppose and abolish the ever increasing repressive management control devices that the state is developing.

By Rita Saxe

There are several excellent journals running information on women in prison. *Through the Looking glass*, P.O. Box 22061, Seattle, Washington 98122—a journal of women and children in prison. *No More Cages*, P.O. Box 283, West Nyack, N.Y. 10994—published by Women Free Women in Prison. *Tightwire*, P.O. Box 515, Kingston, Ontario, Canada—published by the women in Kingston Women's Penitentiary. *Off Our Backs*—feminist newspaper

To get in touch with the anti-psychiatry movement contact: *Mental Patients' Liberation Front*, P.O. Box 156, West Somerville, Mass. 02144 or *Alliance for the Liberation of Mental Patients*, 112 S. 16th Street, Room 1305, Philadelphia, Penn. 19102. Two fine journals are: *Madness Network News*, P.O. Box 654, San Francisco, Ca. 94101 and *State and Mind*, Box 89, West Somerville, Mass. 02144.

By Johnnie James

offering any solution to the women who get locked away for being victims.

STRONG CONNECTIONS

All women are subjected to forms of attack by men, and when one woman acts to defend herself she is acting against all those years of enforced slavery. We are all involved in her defiance and the solidarity of women who have been locked down for this and women who are being tried for this and women who may at any time be forced into this can change around this sexist injustice.

CONTACT LIST

UNITED STATES

ALABAMA

BIRMINGHAM: Committee To

Defend Inmate And Stop The Death

Penalty. P.O. Box 11502, Birming-

ham ALA 35202

MOBILE: Inmate For Action (IFA)

Defense Committee. P.O. Box 1545,

Mobile ALA 36601

CALIFORNIA

SAN FRANCISCO: Prison Law

Collective. 558 Capp St., San Fran-

cisco CA 94115

SAN FRANCISCO: The Outlaw, The

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Francisco CA 94107

SAN FRANCISCO: Desse Woods

Support Coalition. P.O. Box 921,

San Francisco CA 94101

SAN FRANCISCO: Women Against

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415, San Francisco CA 94103

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Prison, P.O. Box 982, San Francisco

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SAN FRANCISCO: Western Mora-

torium On Prison Construction, 1551

2nd Ave., San Francisco CA 94122

SAN FRANCISCO: John Handi (Gay

Newspaper), P.O. Box 4242, San

Francisco CA 94142

SANTA CRUZ: Gas War Prisoner,

3144 Laurel, Santa Cruz CA 95060

REDONDO BEACH: Bill & Emily

Haris Defense, 204 Avenue B,

Redondo Beach CA 90277

ATASCADERO: Atascadero Prison

Gay Encounter, c/o Druser A. Asa-

calero CA

LOS ANGELES: National Committee

Against Repression, 1250 Wilshire

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LOS ANGELES: Cellmate, P.O. Box

5520, Los Angeles CA 90055

BERKELEY: Crime & Social Justice,

P.O. Box 4373, Berkeley CA 94703

SAN JOSE: Friends Outside, 712 Elm

St., San Jose CA 95126

BERKELEY: Committee To Abolish

Prison Slavery, 3125 Shattuck Ave.,

Berkeley CA 94705

ALBANY: A. Rogers (Cancer) Mages,

P.O. Box 4, 95951 Patton Prison,

Reynolds CA 95971

SAN FRANCISCO: Committee To

Build The National Prison Organi-

zation, P.O. Box 921, San Francisco

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NEWCASTLE: Constitutional Defense

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Mortatorium On Prison Construction

324 C St. SE, Washington DC 20003

WASHINGTON: Prison Law Monitor,

1546 Conn. Ave. NW, Washington

DC

FLORIDA

ST. PETERSBURG: African National

Prisoners' Organization, P.O. Box

12792, St. Petersburg FL 33733

ORLANDO: Florida Citizens Against

The Death Penalty, c/o Shirley Peter

son, 1111 E. Washington St.,

Orlando FL 32801

MIAMI: Florida Alliance Against

Repression, P.O. Box 480771, Miami

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TALLAHASSEE: Clearinghouse On

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ATLANTA: A National Committee To

Defend Desse Woods, P.O. Box

92084, Morris Brown Station, Atlan-

ta GA 30304

ATLANTA: Coalition On Jails and Pri-

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REIDSVILLE: Buray (Jailhouse Lawyer

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CHICAGO: Hard Times Prison Project,

55 West Jackson, Room 1001,

Chicago IL 60604

CHICAGO: Prison Seven Newsletter,

1445 South Dear, Chicago IL 60605

LOUISVILLE: African National

Prisoners' Organization, P.O. Box

10997, Louisville, KENTUCKY

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NEW ORLEANS: Louisiana Coalition

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ANNAPOLIS: Maryland Alliance For

Prison Alternatives, P.O. Box 1865,

Annapolis MD 21404

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CAMBRIDGE: Coalition To Stop In-

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bridge MA 02139

DORCHESTER: Doing Time, 1514 A

Dorchester Ave., Dorchester MA

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WEST SOMERVILLE: Eddie Sanchez

Defense, P.O. Box 124, West Somer-

ville MA 02144

WEST SOMERVILLE: Susan Saxe

Defense, P.O. Box 38, West Somer-

ville MA 02144

WEST SOMERVILLE: Bar None,

P.O. Box 138, West Somerville MA

02144

CAMBRIDGE: Black Market Books,

P.O. Box 306, Cambridge MA 02139

MINNESOTA

MINNEAPOLIS: U.S. P.O. Box 3816,

Loring Station, Minneapolis MN

55405

ST. PAUL: Native American Solidarity

Committee, P.O. Box 3426, St. Paul

MN

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ST. LOUIS: Audrey A. Meyers, P.O.

National Committee To Support The

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St. Louis MO 63110

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NEW YORK: Morning Sun, P.O. Box

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NEW YORK: Amnesty For Everyone,

539 Lafayette St., New York NY

10012

NEW YORK: Political Prisoner's Co-

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(Prison Movement News), 13

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NY 10994

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HARLEM: National Committee For

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P.O. Box 1184, Harlem NY 10028

BROOKLYN: Dolores Mapp Defense

Committee, c/o P.A.R.C., P.O. Box

545, Brooklyn NY 11215

NEW YORK: Institute On Radical

Criminology, David Greenberg,

Sociology Dept., New York University

NY 10003

NORTH CAROLINA

DURHAM: N.C. Prisoners' Labor

Union Newsletter, P.O. Box 2842,

Durham NC 27701

OHIO

CINCINNATI: Prison Pen Pal

Bulletin, P.O. Box 1277, Cincinnati

OH 45203

CLEVELAND: Prisoners' Rights

Committee News, 2108 Payne Ave.,

Cleveland OH 44114

KENT: Ken Legal Defense Fund, P.O.

Box 566, Kent OH 44240

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Eugene: Prison

Project, 115 W. 10th Ave., Eugene OR 97401

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LEWISBERG: ACLU Lewisburg

Project, P.O. Box 128, Lewisburg PA

17037

PHILADELPHIA: Alliance For The

Liberation Of Mental Patients, 112

S. 16th St. (F1903), Philadelphia PA

19102

PITTSBURGH: Political Prisoners' Soli-

darity Campaign Committee, 7180 Tilden St.,

Pittsburgh PA 15206

SOUTH DAKOTA

RAPID CITY: Wounded Knee Offense

Committee, P.O. Box 2508, Rapid

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TENNESSEE

NASHVILLE: Southern Coalition

Report On Jails And Prisons, P.O.

Box 12044, Nashville TN 37212

TEXAS

HOUSTON: Lee O'Neil Johnson Defense

Committee, P.O. Box 32115,

Houston TX 77062

HOUSTON: Prisoners Support

Committee, P.O. Box 55115,

Houston TX 77052

HOUSTON: General Defense Com-

mittee, P.O. Box 66913, Houston TX

77052

VIRGINIA

LONDON: Newsletter, Lifes For

Prison Reform, INC., P.O. Box 25,

Lorton VA 22079

NORFOLK: Prisoners Solidarity

Committee (Virginia), P.O. Box 7032,

Norfolk VA 23509

WASHINGTON

SEATTLE: Through The Looking

Glass, P.O. Box 22051, Seattle WA

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SEATTLE: Young Woman Defense

Committee, 1206 Smith Tower,

Seattle WA 98104

SEATTLE: Public Support For The

George Jackson Brigade, P.O. Box

2228, Seattle WA 98102

SEATTLE: Washington Committee

Against More Prison, 743 Broadway

East, Seattle WA 98102

SEATTLE: Rita Brown Defense

Committee, P.O. Box 22204, Seattle

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SEATTLE: Prisoners' Rights

Organization, 1723 16th Ave.,

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SEATTLE: Prisoner Support Program,